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# Senate Votes, 84-12, To Condemn Mining Of Nicaraguan Ports

## President Approved 'Harassment' Plan

By Lou Cannon  
and Don Oberdorfer  
Washington Post Staff Writers

The CIA decision to mine harbors in Nicaragua was approved by President Reagan on the recommendation of White House national security affairs adviser Robert C. McFarlane and the Pentagon, despite "misgivings" expressed by Secretary of State George P. Shultz, informed administration officials said yesterday.

These officials said that the proposal was presented to Reagan as part of a "scaled-down" CIA plan of "harassment" to cripple the economy of Nicaragua and make it more difficult for its Sandinista government to aid leftist rebels in nearby El Salvador.

"As presented to the president, the whole plan was one of harassment of the Sandinistas," said one official. "It did not focus on the mining."

The official declined comment on the extent of Reagan's involvement in or knowledge of the mining decision, saying only that it was "part of a package" that was discussed with the president.

Other parts of this package included increasing from 15,000 to 18,000 the U.S.-financed "contra" guerrillas opposing the Sandinistas and redirecting their activities to emphasize attacks on power plants, bridges and other economic targets.

Administration officials gave conflicting signals yesterday about whether the mining of Nicaraguan ports would continue.

One official said the question of whether to continue the mining was "under review at high levels." A Republican congressional source, who was highly critical of the administration for jeopardizing Capitol Hill support for additional aid to El Sal-

vador, said of the mining operation, "They have no choice except to abandon it."

But another official said that the contras consider the handmade acoustic mines, which explode noisily but are unlikely to sink a ship, to be "highly cost-effective."

"They're a small force facing a large Nicaraguan army," said this official. "The mines are like a sign that says, 'Beware of the dog.'"

Nonetheless, the prevailing view within the administration seemed to be that there at least would be a pause in the controversial mining operations.

In Rome, Alfonso Robelo, leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, one of the principal anti-Sandinista groups, said that the mining would be stopped if the Sandinista government lifted news censorship.

The mining operation was discussed in a National Security Planning Group meeting chaired by Vice President Bush in February, according to one official. White House and State Department officials who asked not to be identified said that Shultz was initially skeptical of it, apparently because of the possibility of diplomatic protests like those that have been made by France and Great Britain.

According to another official, after a mine laid by the CIA-backed rebels damaged a Soviet tanker in the Nicaraguan port of Puerto Sandino on March 20, Shultz expressed "very profound misgivings" but never made a formal objection to the policy.

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